



ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION

The Jet Propulsion Laboratory is committed to providing a safe and healthy work environment for all personnel.

In the past several years, the Laboratory management, working through the JPL Safety Operations Section - Industrial Hygiene and Workers Compensation Group (SOS - IHWC) and the Facilities Division, has had an on-going program of asbestos identification and control. This program has included bulk sampling, air monitoring, and training for members of the Facilities and Maintenance staff.

Through this program, some of the buildings at JPL have been identified to contain friable sprayed-on fireproofing above the ceilings. At the Oak Grove site, these buildings include 167, 168, 169, 179, 180, 183, 186, 230, 238, 264 and 291, and at the Foothill site, buildings 502, 506 and 507. Asbestos may be present in other JPL buildings in other various forms, including, but not limited to: transite, thermal system insulation, roofing products, ceiling tiles, spray-applied acoustical ceiling, wall materials, and floor tiles/linoleum/mastic.

The majority of asbestos at JPL is located in restricted access areas, such as mechanical rooms, boiler rooms and attics. It is in generally good condition and does not pose a hazard during normal operations.

The SOS-IHAWC staff has taken numerous air samples in JPL buildings. Sampling results indicate that airborne asbestos levels in the buildings are well below regulatory limits and are lower than those found in industrial workplaces where adverse health effects have been observed. Fiber levels in JPL buildings are not significantly different than fiber levels found outside.

Asbestos-containing materials do not pose a health hazard, unless the fibers become airborne. Contractor maintenance/construction/renovation activity involving intentional or accidental contact with friable materials can release fibers; therefore, only authorized and properly trained personnel are permitted to perform work that may disturb asbestos materials.

General written procedures and handling restrictions have been provided to JPL and contractor personnel. SOS-IHAWC must be given notification and, if deemed necessary, a written description of any asbestos-related work to be conducted in areas where asbestos may be present prior to the initiation of activities. The work to be performed will determine if these areas must be tested and cleared. SOS-IHAWC will review sampling results and documentation after completion of contractor activities prior to occupancy.

Pursuant to the California Health and Safety Code (Chapter 10.4, Section 25915), each employee has the right to review all reports about surveys, bulk sampling and air sampling. These reports are available for review during normal business hours. Contact SOS-IHAWC at extension 4-1771 to review these documents or if there are any questions.